

NORM DICKS

6TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

2467 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4706

PHONE: (202) 225-5916

<http://www.house.gov/dicks/>

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

INTERIOR

RANKING DEMOCRATIC MEMBER

DEFENSE

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION

HOMELAND SECURITY



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

January 28, 2004

DISTRICT OFFICES:

SUITE 2244

1717 PACIFIC AVENUE

TACOMA, WA 98402-3234

PHONE: (253) 593-6536

SUITE 301

500 PACIFIC AVENUE

BREMERTON, WA 98337

PHONE: (360) 479-4011

332 E 5TH STREET

PORT ANGELES, WA 98362

PHONE: (360) 452-3370

RECYCLED PAPER

Brad Ack
Chair, Puget Sound Action Team
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40900
Olympia, WA 98504-0900

Dear Mr. Ack:

I am pleased to inform you that Congress has appropriated \$500,000 dollars for beginning corrective actions to improve the low dissolved oxygen conditions in Hood Canal. This appropriation is based on the project document you shared with me in the fall, titled ***Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Preliminary Assessment and Corrective Actions***. That project, as I understand it, is designed to more clearly identify, seek to quantify, and ultimately propose actions to reduce the major sources of human-related pollution and nutrient input into Hood Canal.

My intent is that the Federal funds be used to begin implementation of the highest priority corrective actions that emerge from your assessment and planning process. I assume that would also include some significant component of public outreach and education. I understand and support your intent to undertake much of this work through agreements with local governments, tribes and non-governmental organizations.

While we don't yet know with absolute certainty all the causes of the worsening dissolved oxygen condition in Hood Canal, we know enough to get started on correcting those major sources of nutrient pollution that are contributing to the problem. I look forward to periodic reports from the Puget Sound Action Team on how this work is progressing.

Sincerely,

NORM DICKS

Member of Congress

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